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LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our conversation of 12 May 1997, I should like to reaffirm the following:

1. I have received no official notification from my country as to the means of transport used by our leader, His Excellency Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, on his visit to the Niger and Nigeria for religious purposes.

2. The visit was undertaken in response to the invitation of the African Islamic leaders, who are part of the world peoples' Islamic leadership led by His Excellency Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. The visit was therefore undertaken for purely religious reasons.

3. Even supposing for the sake of argument that the method of transport used was an aircraft, and a Libyan aircraft at that, that would in no way threaten world peace or international security.

4. We are aware that the United States of America has substituted Islam and the Muslims for its former enemy, the Soviet Union and the collapsed Eastern bloc. Nevertheless, the Security Council should not serve as a shield for the United States, thereby legitimizing this animosity.

Iraq, Iran, Syria, the Sudan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and other countries are currently being treated as enemies and made the target of political, economic and military embargoes. It is possible that the Niger and Nigeria may in the future take their place in this long queue.

We therefore consider that the Security Council should recognize this while there is still time, since every action is followed by a reaction, and in future reactions will not come from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya alone. The Security Council should therefore avoid becoming involved in religious issues.

5. Discussion of this visit by the Security Council will not resolve the Lockerbie question. That can only be resolved by the following:

(a) The United States of America and the United Kingdom must take the steps already taken by France. We are completely ready to cooperate with those countries fully in order to complete the requested investigation of the two suspects;

(b) Acceptance of one of the proposals put forward by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. All these proposals are officially documented in the Security Council;

(c) Acceptance of one of the proposals put forward in this regard by the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States or the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We are committed to reaching a solution to this problem, and hope that the Security Council will send a commission of inquiry to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in order to establish the lack of any connection with terrorism or terrorists.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative